bio-medical waste is a matter of concern and needs to be addressed adequately, the Government is not aware of any finding indicating that the problem of scientific disposal and management of bio-medical waste has assumed critical proportions.

(c) The Government has issued the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 on July 27, 1998.

(d) and (e) The Action Plan for implementing the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 is stipulated in the above Rules which is as follows:—

Schedule for waste treatment facilities like Incineration / Autoclave / Microwave System

A.	Hospitals and nursing homes in towns with population of 30 lakhs and above	by 31st December, 1999 or earlier
B.	Hospitals and nursing homes in towns with population of below 30 lakhs,	
	(a) with 500 beds and above	by 31st December, 1999 or earlier
	(b) with 200 beds and above but less than 500 beds	by 31st December, 2000 or earlier
	(c) with 50 beds and above but less than 200 beds	by 31st December, 2001 or earlier
	(d) with less than 50 beds	by 31st December, 2002 or earlier
C.	All other institutions generating bio-medical waste not included in A and B above	by 31st December, 2002 or earlier

The Action Plan is to be implemented by the State Governments / Union Territory Governments.

Killing of Endangered Animals

1415. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of endangered animals are being killed in the country every year;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any plan to protect and save them;

(c) is so, the details thereof and the details of such animals killed during the last two years;

(d) whether Government propose to prescribe stricter punishment for those involved in killing the endangered animals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Instances of killing of endangered animals have come to the notice of the Government from time to time.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The States have been asked to set up co-ordination committees of all enforcement agencies, so that there is effective co-operation to check poaching and illegal trade. Staff in National Parks and Sanctuaries are being provided modern arms wireless equipment and communication facilities. Numbers of wild animals including endangered animals reported to be killed during the last two years in different States is given in the statement (*See* below)

(d) and (e) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended in 1991 is a comprehensive legislation which empowers the State Governments/UTs to have effective control over the management of wildlife and protection of the endangered species. The punishments for various offences provided in the Act have been found to be by and large adequate.

Statement

Numbers of wild animals including endangered animals killed during the last two years in diffrent States:

State	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	35	28
Arunachal Pradesh	01	02
*Assam	45	33
Bihar	02	02
Goa	Nil	NA
Gujarat	48	43
Haryana	588	NA
Himachal Pradesh	13	02
*Kerala	09	02 (upto Dec. 97)
Karnataka	54	71
Maharashtra	NA	NA
Meghalaya	04	02
Manipur	Nil	01
Mizoram	08	04
Madhya Pradesh	286	35
Nagaland	14	04
Orissa	53	35
Punjab	250	NA
Rajasthan	56	29
Sikkim	03	02
Tamil Nadu	NA	NA
Tripura	Nil	02
*Uttar Pradesh	02	05
West Bengal	Nil	02
Pondicherry	07	——
TOTAL	1479	631

*As per calender year

Mass Slaughter of Animals

1416. MASS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been sharp increase in the mass slaughter of deer, sambhars, wild boar and peacock in the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which took place in each State during the said period;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in each case; and

(d) whether steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) (a) Some incidents of illegal hunting of deer, sambhar, wild boar and peacock have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The responsibility of enquiring into such cases and taking action against the offenders is mainly with the State Governments.

(d) Steps taken to protect the wild animals include:

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trade in wild animals reaches them.

(iv) International trade in endangered Species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(v) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(vi) Interdepartmental coordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, JTBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programme on wildlife enforcement and